



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/784,135

02/20/2004

Bird D. Blich

BSI2

5378

6980 7590 02/08/2008

TROUTMAN SANDERS LLP  
600 PEACHTREE STREET, NE  
ATLANTA, GA 30308

EXAMINER

IWARERE, OLUSEYE

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

4127

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

02/08/2008

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/784,135	<b>Applicant(s)</b> BLITCH ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Oluseye Iwarere	<b>Art Unit</b> 4127	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 February 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 20 February 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)            | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>03/17/2004</u> .  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

### DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is a First Office Action Non-Final rejection on the merits.  
Claims 1 – 15, as originally filed, are currently pending and have been considered below.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

4. **Claims 1 – 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over DeVries (2003/0009396) in view of Friedman (2002/0082991).**

**As per claims 1 and 13**, DeVries discloses a data processing system and method for managing resources of an organization comprising:

an inventory tracking unit adapted to maintain inventory data for a plurality of resources ([abstract]; a global supply chain solution database software package

manages inventory levels and tracks internal shipment of parts and products between areas);

an inventory modification unit in communication with the inventory tracking unit and adapted to modify inventory data ([0019]; Replenish and maintain the manufacturer's inventory, which is construed as including modifying the inventory data);

a contract management unit adapted to maintain contract data for one or more resource contracts, wherein each resource contract is associated with one or more of said plurality of resources ([0062] Customer Contracts Table A table that contains all the parameters for purchases of parts by a customer from the manufacturer. It contains the Supplier ID, part number, unit price, ship quantity, shipping method, payment schedule, and contract data);

a bill processing unit adapted to maintain billing data associated with each of said plurality of resources ([0074] Invoice table A table that contains the invoice data for a sale or order. It contains Supplier number, customer number, part number, description, quantity, unit price, total price, and payment terms);

However, DeVries fails to explicitly disclose a processing unit adapted to reconcile the billing data, contract data, and inventory data.

Friedman teaches a telecommunications cost management system with the feature of a processing unit adapted to reconcile the billing data, contract data, and inventory data ([0026] The management reporting processes provide reports regarding inventory reconciliation, bill reconciliation and maintenance of contract rates, construed as reconciling contract data.).

From this teaching of Friedman, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the tracking and electronic signaling system of DeVries to include the reconciling of billing data, contract data and inventory data, taught by Friedman, in order to insure accuracy.

**As per claims 2 and 14**, DeVries discloses the claimed invention but fails to explicitly disclose, wherein the resources are telecommunications resources.

Friedman teaches a telecommunications cost management system, wherein the resources are telecommunications resources ([abstract]; the present invention is a data processing system and method for analyzing billing indices regarding billed telecommunications items).

From this teaching of Friedman, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the tracking and electronic signaling system of DeVries to include wherein the resources are telecommunications resources, taught by Friedman, in order to provide a specific application.

**As per claims 3 and 15**, DeVries discloses, wherein the inventory modification unit is adapted to initiate orders for new resources ([abstract]; It may automatically order or reorder inventory from suppliers and ship products to customers) and to update the inventory tracking unit with inventory data representative of the new resource ([0139] New Tag which creates a new Tracking Tag entry into the Tracking Table).

**As per claims 4 and 16**, DeVries discloses, wherein the inventory modification unit is adapted to modify inventory data for each of said plurality of resources ([0166] Edit Inventory The command Edit Inventory, when selected, opens the Edit Inventory screen that displays all parts inventoried by this Workstation from the Inventory Table. The user may edit or add entries. This command is also available for parts that are not inventoried).

**As per claims 5 and 17**, DeVries discloses, wherein the inventory tracking unit is adapted to automatically update inventory data when new resources are ordered ([abstract]; Integrated inventory, tracking, transportation, automated ordering, receiving, sales, shipping, and contract software modules residing on several workstations through the manufacturing process are tied together for accuracy through a central server computer).

**As per claims 6 and 18**, DeVries discloses, wherein the inventory tracking unit is adapted to automatically update inventory data when existing resources are cancelled ([devries 0042] Similarly, if the circuit, pager, cell phone, or other telecom service was provisioned specifically for an employee of the customer who is no longer actively employed by the company, the item is flagged for deprovision).

**As per claims 7 and 19**, DeVries discloses, wherein the processing unit is adapted to identify billing discrepancies between the billing data and the contract data

([0181] It interfaces directly with the Order Module 18 as an inventory order is generated to ensure no discrepancy exists between what is ordered and contracted pricing agreements).

**As per claim 8**, DeVries discloses, further comprising:

a reporting unit adapted to generate reports ([abstract]; time flow analysis and management reporting is provided at every step of the process in standard and custom formats).

**As per claims 9 and 20**, DeVries discloses the claimed invention but fails to explicitly disclose wherein the reporting unit is adapted to generate billing disputes.

Friedman teaches a telecommunications cost management system, wherein the reporting unit is adapted to generate billing disputes ([0025] Information from bills 14 as well as the various databases allow bill verification process 16 of system 10 to generate exception reports 30).

From this teaching of Friedman, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the tracking and electronic signaling system of DeVries to include the generating of billing disputes, taught by Friedman, in order to provide a means of troubleshooting.

**As per claims 10 and 21**, DeVries discloses the claimed invention but fails to explicitly disclose wherein the reporting unit is adapted to generate reports representative of bills approved for payment .

Friedman teaches a telecommunications cost management system, wherein the reporting unit is adapted to generate reports representative of bills approved for payment ([0076] Remittance R1: The purpose of this section is to prepare remittance vouchers to attach to paper bills for approval processing).

From this teaching of Friedman, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the tracking and electronic signaling system of DeVries to include generating of reports representative of bills approved for payment, taught by Friedman, in order to provide a record of transaction.

**As per claims 11 and 22**, DeVries discloses the claimed invention but fails to explicitly further disclose:

a trouble ticket unit adapted to resolve problems associated with resources and to store historical analytical data.

Friedman teaches a telecommunications cost management system, a trouble ticket unit adapted to resolve problems associated with resources ([0080] Drill down isolates BAN's where problems may exist as indicated by excessive variance) and to store historical analytical data ([0085] History 302 provides historical dispute information tracking back on a month by month basis).



From this teaching of Friedman, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the tracking and electronic signaling system of DeVries to include the resolving of problems associated with resources and storing historical data, taught by Friedman, in order to provide a reference of troubleshooting.

**As per claims 12 and 23,** DeVries discloses, wherein the processor unit is further adapted to compare the billing data, contract data, and inventory data to confirm that the billing data corresponds to current inventory data and contract data ([0196] The requires sales information (Part Number, Quantity, Serial No. lot No., Purchase Order, etc) is entered. If it is available, the data is compared with the contracts data for this Customer and part and retrieves the Unit Price).

**As per claim 24,** DeVries discloses the claimed invention but fails to explicitly further disclose, comprising the step of canceling resources associated with an employee when the employee leaves the organization.

Friedman teaches a telecommunications cost management system, comprising the step of canceling resources associated with an employee when the employee leaves the organization ([0042] Similarly, if the circuit, pager, cell phone, or other telecom service was provisioned specifically for an employee of the customer who is no longer actively employed by the company, the item is flagged for deprovision).

From this teaching of Friedman, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the tracking and electronic signaling system of DeVries to include the step of cancelling resources, taught by Friedman, in order to provide a current account.

**As per claim 25**, the combination of DeVries and Friedman discloses the claimed invention except that it discloses comprising the step of canceling resources associated with an employee when the employee leaves the organization ([0042] Similarly, if the circuit, pager, cell phone, or other telecom service was provisioned specifically for an employee of the customer who is no longer actively employed by the company, the item is flagged for deprovision) instead of comprising the step of adding resources associated with an employee when the employee joins the organization.

From this teaching of the combination of DeVries and Friedman, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include the step of adding resources associated with an employee when the employee joins the organization because it inherently exists. In order to have the step of canceling resources associated with an employee when the employee leaves the organization, they must have been added to begin with.

### ***Conclusion***

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Burk (2003/0069813), which discloses a system, method and

Art Unit: 3627

computer program product for tracking non-conforming goods in a supply chain management framework, Richey (2003/0233292), which discloses a method and system for facilitating electronic dispute resolution, Ward et al. (5,463,555), which discloses a System and method for integrating a business environment with a process control environment, Stroh (2007/0100711), which discloses a payment method employing a bill of exchange and Menninger (2003/0074205), which discloses a system, method and computer program product for regional restrictions in a supply chain framework.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Oluseye Iwarere whose telephone number is (571)270-5112. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday 7:30am to 5 (EDT).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynda Jasmin can be reached on (571) 272-3033. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Elaine Gort/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3627

January 30, 2008

OI